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Department of State

TELEGRAM

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PET 15-2 LIBYA

UNCLASSIFIED AL 183

PAGE 01 BENGHA 00047 251334Z

DECLASSIFICATION DATE 3/1/76
PER MBerry OFFICE NEA
FADRC FOI CASE NO. 5-A-88

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ACTION AF-13

INFO OCT-01 EUR-20 SS-14 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-06 NSAE-00

RSC-01 E-11 AID-20 IGA-02 L-03 COM-08 PM-06 OEP-01

NEA-09 OPIC-12 PRS-01 RSR-01 /139 W

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BENGHAZI 47
1/25/72

R 251310Z JAN 72
FM AMEMBAFUY BENGHAZI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0742
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

UNCLASSIFIED E N T I A L BENGHAZI 0047

PET 15-2 LIBYA

SUBJECT: NATIONALIZATION OF BP

REF: BENGHAZI 0045

FROM MACK

1. AS REPORTED EARLIER, ARAB GULF HAS ASSUMED ALL PRODUCTION RESPONSIBILITIES AT SARIR FIELD AND TOBRUK TERMINAL. IT IS RECEIVING ASSISTANCE OF BRITISH MAINTENANCE PERSONNEL SUPPLIED BY PRIVATE COMPANY (OTS), BUT HAS ESSENTIAL CONTROL OF PRODUCTION MANAGEMENT.

2. NELSON BUNKER HUNT HAS RETAINED SIX OF ITS PRODUCTION PERSONNEL IN BENGHAZI WITH THE OBJECT OF USING THEM TO INSPECT OPERATIONS IN THE FIELD AND, IF REQUESTED, TO GIVE ADVICE. HOWEVER, ARAB GULF HAS FOR TIME BEING FORBIDDEN ANY HUNT PERSONNEL TO GO TO TOBRUK OR SARIR. THIS DECISION HAS SUPPORT OF PETMIN MARRUK AND, PERHAPS, RCC AS WELL.

3. [redacted] DESCRIBES SITUATION AS VERY SERIOUS: WITH HUNT BEING DEPRIVED OF ITS LEGAL RIGHT TO INSPECT FIELD AND TERMINAL OPERATIONS. AT PRESENT, ONLY WORKING CONTACT BETWEEN ARAB GULF AND HUNT IS THAT HUNT CONTINUES TO NOTIFY ARAB GULF OF TANKER SCHEDULES. FOR ALL HE KNOWS, PRODUCTION MAY HAVE COME TO A HALT.

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(1) PALMER

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